

not, the United States may be the only nation with the resources to lead such an effort as it accidentally found itself in the last century.

For those rejecting such a notion that America must lead, I am reminded of Obadiah 11, where it says: "On the day you stood aloof . . . you became as one of them."

We can no more abrogate our mantle of leadership of the free world than the free world can wish for a global construct absent American security and economy. What remains is to ditch the notion that the United States is somehow a force for bad in the world and that we need to recede our position.

We must ditch the notion that the United States violates human rights rather than is foremost in securing human rights globally, and we must abandon the premise that we have no right to lead on the ideals with which we have governed ourselves since 1789. We know no other path. It is in our DNA.

If the United States were to lead and form a federation of freedom, we would have the commercial development to create competitive markets and unite in mutually beneficial innovative advancements. We would have the diplomatic strength to unite on human rights. We would have the ability to promote underdeveloped nations with the skills and structure necessary through our cultural exchanges and our institutions of higher learning, while exchanging the same through our partners.

We would have the collective strength to protect shipping lanes and ward off those wishing to usurp free trade or pirate the commerce as it passes by, and we would have the collective strength to withstand the most active of coercive actors. We would be a beacon for those wishing to find their way into such a federation rather than falling subject to coercive friends and neighbors wishing to enslave others into an authoritarian future.

□ 1730

What of the federation? What would these nations look like. How about this: 7 of the G7; 16 of the G20, and 75 nations, whose democratic index places them high enough on the list to maintain a government ruled by their own people as they secure their liberty.

A federation of freedom nations would have this in common: free elections, respect for the rule of law, basic human rights, stable economics, a free economy united in free trade among federation members, protections for intellectual and private property, and open arms for cultural and educational exchange. The good news is much of this exists, it is just not organized and it is not led.

To our authoritarian competitors, or worse, the pariah states of the globe, here is a simple truth: History has shown that our historical enemies do not have to be our future enemies. However, one thing is certain: Our fu-

ture enemies will continue to be those that are opposite of the ideals that formed our American mindset for freedom and liberty, whether we want to recognize that as the American people or not.

So to the American people, I urge you to call on this Congress to support such a federation.

To the President, I say, Mr. President, this could not only be your moment, but it could be what the freedom-loving people of the world hope you would be in a leader. Organize and lead such a federation.

The concept is simple; its execution most difficult. Its reward: prosperity and security on a grand scale.

And let the world be assured, despite mixed signals, spurtive advancements or setbacks, the habits of the American people still offer hope because of how we govern ourselves. To our enemies, that hope should also offer warning.

Let us, therefore, embark with such democratic like-minded nations to secure such a federation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### TEARING IMMIGRANT CHILDREN AWAY FROM THEIR PARENTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from California (Mr. CORREA) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject matter of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address this body on a very important issue that we need to bring to the attention of the people of this country.

I am proud to have so many of my colleagues here today to stand up against the President's policy of systematically tearing immigrant children away from their families. These innocent children are being held under inhumane conditions at detention facilities, alone and apart from their parents.

President Trump's chief of staff, General Kelly, recently, when asked about this, said:

The children will be taken care of, put into foster care, or whatever.

This is an unacceptable answer.

The administration is tearing children away from their parents, including infants and toddlers, and in some cases, holding these children in cages.

The United Nations has noted that children arriving at the U.S. border who plead for asylum with their par-

ents is a legal form of entry, and separating children away from their parents is illegal and a violation of human rights.

These immoral practices are being executed by the Department of Justice and the Department of Homeland Security, to instill fear and deter families, who are already fleeing extreme fear and violence in their native homes. They are trying to, again, deter them from seeking legal protection in America.

For example, from October 2017 to April 2018, 700 children were separated. But in just the first 13 days of May of this year, 2018, 658 children were separated, which almost equals the previous 6 months. Children are literally being ripped from their mothers' arms, who are simply seeking safety for their families. And immorally, the administration is breaking up families, plain and simple. Asylum seekers should not be held hostage and penalized for wanting to be protected from harm.

This new policy is clearly unprecedented, cruel, and altogether dead wrong. It is imperative that we stand up against the administration's un-American policies towards families.

Today, my colleagues and I are standing up against this barbaric action and demand the administration stop punishing children and stop punishing families who are fearing for their lives.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN), my good friend and distinguished colleague.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. CORREA for yielding, and I thank him for organizing this Special Order.

It is a part of immigration law—it is not a violation of immigration law, it is a part of immigration law—that people fleeing for their lives can come to the United States and apply for asylum. Not only is that in our statutes, but it is also in a treaty that we ratified. People concerned about the rule of law ought to realize this is part of our law.

Here is what is happening. People fleeing for their lives, primarily from Central America, are going to the ports of entry. In some cases, we have received reports that they make their claim and their children are taken away from them, I believe in violation of law.

In other cases, even though they are there to make an application, they are turned away by Border Patrol. They then go down the road and find a Border Patrol agent to turn themselves in to, to make their claim for political asylum. And when that happens, their children are then taken away from them.

Mr. Speaker, there is a report today from the Department of Health and Human Services, which says that since this policy was adopted by the Trump administration, 1,329 kids have been taken from their parents in this cruel policy. I think that this is not the American way.

Mr. Speaker, I saw a report from CNN today. Here is what it says: "The undocumented immigrant from Honduras sobbed as she told an attorney Tuesday how Federal authorities took her daughter while she breastfed the child in a detention center . . . when the woman resisted, she was handcuffed. . . ."

The Catholic church has spoken out again today from CNN, and this is what Cardinal DiNardo said:

Families are the foundational element of our society and they must be able to stay together. While protecting our borders is important, we can and must do better as a government, and as a society, to find other ways to ensure that safety. Separating babies from their mothers is not the answer and is immoral.

We are here today to say: America, we need to take a stand. The President and his administration has decided to terrorize children in an effort to deter people from availing themselves of the opportunity provided for under immigration law. That is simply wrong.

America, now is the time to be heard.

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentlewoman from California for those remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA), my good friend and distinguished colleague.

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues this afternoon on what is, I think, a very important issue facing our country today, and that is remembering what our common shared values are all about: a Nation of immigrants, past and present.

Mr. Speaker, I am deeply disturbed, as is my colleague, Congressman CORREA, and others that are here, by the administration's current policy, which we believe tears families apart who are seeking asylum at our borders. That is simply not the American way. These are parents and children fleeing to America, coming here via legal means, seeking refuge for a host of different reasons.

And what happens to them now?

Children, including infants and toddlers, are taken from their parents' care, and sent to shelters, which we now know are sometimes juvenile detention centers. That is not right. That is not the American way. The parents are sent to detention facilities as well, which may be in the form of Federal prisons.

At America's borders, this is happening to families; families who, again, are legally seeking asylum. We have had a whole history and tradition of allowing families who are seeking legal asylum.

And what are they fleeing?

Well, we know what they are fleeing: domestic violence, rape, murder, and gang violence.

If that is not traumatizing enough, now we are talking about separating them and detaining them, and we are not even beginning to consider the sort

of natural disasters that have afflicted neighbors of ours.

This is an outrageous policy. I think it is morally disgusting and un-American. We are not a nation in terms of our shared values that tears families apart. We never have been. The American family is the foundation of our country. We are not a nation that systematically uses fear and the threat of detention to scare immigrants from trying to legally enter this country and build a better life for themselves and their families for what they might be fleeing.

Yes, no one disputes that we need to secure our borders. We must ensure the safety of our Nation. That is our highest priority. We must prevent those who want to do harm to us from entering, whether we are talking about transnational gangs who are engaged in drug trafficking, or in sex trafficking, or in other illegal activities that devastate our communities. We all agree on that.

I have consistently voted for improved border security funding and policies. But ripping these families apart like this is not securing our borders.

For over a decade, I have been calling for comprehensive immigration reform that includes border security that fixes our broken immigration system, and does it in a way that is fair, just, and works. We had such a proposal in 2013 that the Senate passed 68–32. Sadly, we could not bring it up. It was a bipartisan measure.

If we had a strong and comprehensive functioning immigration system, there would be no chance for these disgusting policies to occur, as they are now today.

In closing, I stand here today calling on Congress to move on immigration reform, comprehensive immigration reform, that is bipartisan. Let's put an end to these immoral, cruel, and un-American policies. If we can't do that, then let's just try to bring a clean Dream Act to the floor. I guess we will see what comes next week, in terms of what is being proposed.

Mr. Speaker, I stand here today for families who are being ripped apart at the borders, for immigrants past and immigrants present, for let us never forget America is a Nation for over 240 years that has been made up of immigrants from all around the world. For the future, and the soul of our country, I ask that we come together and fix this broken immigration system.

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman from California for his comments.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE), my distinguished colleague.

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to point out that the United Nations has called this heartless act of separating children from their parents as "unlawful . . . and a serious violation of the rights of

the child." The American Academy of Pediatrics has stated that such separation can cause irreparable harm, disrupting a child's development and affecting his or her health.

I just want to say that many of my colleagues today have indicated that this is not who we are.

□ 1745

They have asked what I think is a rhetorical question, Mr. CORREA. They have asked: Who are we?

Well, I can tell you who we are through the agency of our head of state. We are people who have embraced the President of the Philippines who kills people who are accused of drug trafficking. Through the agency of our head of state, we are people who have embraced cruel dictators like Vladimir Putin who invaded a country. Through the agency of our head of state, we have asked to readmit Putin into the G7, making it the G8. Through the agency of our head of state, we have declared that Kim Jong-un is to be admired, that he is smart, that he is a good negotiator.

Who we are, are people who are silent. We are quiet. So why are we asking ourselves who we are? This is who we are, and this is our watch, and the world is watching us. They are watching us be silent and say nothing.

Who are we? We are people who have determined that Canada is an enemy of the state. We are people who are standing by while our Government, the United States of America, is violating international human rights law. That is who we are.

Until we face the reality of who we are, we can't fix this. I could not have, 2 years ago, ever predicted that the United States would behave in this manner.

This is a horrific practice.

The demand is for all Americans to rise up against this, and especially those Americans who have been endowed with the privilege of representing the peoples of the United States of America, especially those people who are in leadership in this body.

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentlewoman from Wisconsin, and I completely agree with her. We cannot be silent in these very challenging times. The whole world is upside down, and people are counting on us to make sure that we remind people of what is going on in Washington.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GONZALEZ), my good friend and distinguished colleague.

Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind the American people of the quick phrase that was recently used by the current administration: "It's not our fault."

It is not our fault. Really? That is that sentiment of our U.S. Attorney General who deflected the responsibility for a zero-tolerance policy that allows the separation of children from their parents.

In the month of May, this evil new policy led to the separation of more than 600 children in a short 13-day span.

Have we lost all our human decency? We are a Nation of laws. How can you explain family separation when it comes to asylum seekers? They have not crossed the border illegally, and yet they are being detained and their families separated as if they were here illegally.

This is a clear attack on immigrants who have exhausted every last resource to seek refuge in the Nation that once welcomed the tired, the poor, and huddled masses yearning to breathe free.

Have we forgotten the words spoken by Mark 12:31 to love thy neighbor as thyself? Is our new message to blame others and not take responsibility?

I think it is important to consider the possible logistical challenges before implementing such policies. Perhaps instead of calling for zero tolerance first, you put prosecutors in place and facilities to house folks in a humane manner. Instead, we asked the U.S. Department of Justice to lend us their lawyers and to rent out vacant Walmart stores.

I have no illusions about what the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and Health and Human Services are hiding behind those curtains.

We have to remember that these immigrant families are not committing dangerous crimes. Asylum seekers are not criminals and are not here illegally.

I represent an area along the border where crime is at record lows, yet the administration keeps saying the opposite. I believe our local officers and local courts and local judges and prosecutors in both State and Federal courts in my region. I believe them when they tell me what the crime rate is, what is happening in our communities.

Right now, the only increased criminal activity I see is the egregious method of ripping families apart and herding immigrant children into a broken system.

This is not the America the world knows and loves. This is a shameful period in our history, and we in this body have the responsibility to correct it.

Mr. Speaker, if any of these frightened, innocent children ask a Member of this House why they are being separated from their families, we cannot merely say: It is not our fault.

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman from Texas, and I have to say, when we talk about "it's not our fault," let's remember Central American violence, gang violence, drugs, gangs. What fuels it? Our insatiable appetite in the United States for drugs. Our dollars that go into Central America, this is what fuels the violence.

These children, these families, when they come of age, MS-13, whom the President talks about very often, tells

these families: "Either your children join the gang or they die." These parents make a third choice, which is to flee, to escape violence, and to seek asylum in America.

It is not our fault? Those are our dollars that are fueling that violence.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. PETERS), my good friend and distinguished colleague.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. CORREA for his leadership in putting together this Special Order.

I know this shocks us all, what is happening at the border, because in our country, family is an institution. It shapes every aspect of our lives.

If you just listen to Ronald Reagan, who painted a wonderful picture of what family means in America, he said: "The family has always been the cornerstone of American society. Our families nurture, preserve, and pass on to each succeeding generation the values we share and cherish, values that are the foundation of our freedoms."

That is Ronald Reagan talking about the family as an American institution.

Today, family, that concept, is being torn apart and challenged at our own borders. Screaming children are being ripped from their parents' arms. These parents are fleeing government violence, domestic violence, religious persecution. They follow generations of people who came to America seeking a better life. Remember that America was founded by people fleeing religious persecution in Europe.

We know the story all too well about what is happening at the border in San Diego where, last week, Dana Sabraw, a Federal judge appointed by George W. Bush, refused to dismiss a lawsuit challenging family separation. The lawsuit involved a Congolese woman and her 7-year-old daughter who were separated at the San Ysidro border crossing after applying for asylum.

As The New York Times described, the girl "was taken away 'screaming and crying, pleading with guards not to take her from her mother,'" and then she was sent to Chicago, thousands of miles away. They didn't see each other for 4 months.

This is common practice. After children are taken from their parents, many parents don't have any idea where they went, who is taking care of them, or how to reach them.

Now, this mother and her child were reunited, but only after a legal challenge and a DNA test.

This mother was looking for the life all parents try to provide their children: one of security and comfort, one of hope, one of opportunity.

We don't know the exact number of children who have been separated from their parents, but we do know that just one is unacceptable when their parents were just trying to give them a better life.

It is also potentially unconstitutional, because I know people in this Chamber still care about that.

In his opinion, Judge Sabraw said that family separation "arbitrarily

tears at the sacred bond between parent and child. Such conduct . . . is brutal, offensive, and fails to comport with traditional notions of fair play and decency."

He also reiterated these same constitutional rights are guaranteed to the noncitizens who come to our borders and ask us for asylum.

The American Psychological Association called on the Trump administration to stop this cruel practice, citing increased anxiety, depression, psychological distress, and developmental disruptions in children who are separated from their parents.

But as parents, we don't need the American Psychological Association to tell us that. Imagine it is you and your children. Imagine how you would feel if you were trying to take care of your kids and had one torn away from you.

We had one account of a woman nursing her baby. The baby girl was ripped from her arms while she was breast feeding at a detention center.

How many children will have to suffer before we have to say, "No more"?

Thankfully, we can do something here. We will not admit every family who comes and asks for our protection. We understand they don't all met the criteria for asylum. But while they wait for a decision on their application, we can treat these families with respect and dignity that demonstrates American values to the rest of the world.

Tearing families apart as an immigration deterrent is repulsive, and it is not us.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, Mr. CORREA, for his leadership and for holding this conversation on this important topic.

It shocks the conscience. I hear all the time from my constituents who are horrified by this. We need to stop this. We will continue to come back and speak up if we have to, but this needs to end.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. CORREA once again for holding this hour.

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I thank my distinguished colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. PETERS), and I also want to thank him for citing President Reagan's name in his comments, President Reagan from the good State of California, my home.

Governor Reagan of the State of California, he understood family; he protected families; and President Reagan passed immigration reform in the United States. Thank you, President Reagan.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY), my good friend and distinguished colleague.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and for his leadership, and for organizing this and for reminding us of the leadership that the Republican Party took under President Reagan for comprehensive immigration reform, which we have all been calling for for years.

Today, I rise because I believe our country is in a moment of crisis. This administration is turning its back on our ideals, our values, and our history as a safe harbor and beacon of light for the world's oppressed and threatened peoples.

President Trump's heartless policy of ripping apart families who are coming to the United States seeking freedom from fear, from violence, is cruel, inhumane, and blatantly un-American.

These families have traveled hundreds, if not thousands, of miles to keep their children safe and away from the harm that awaits them at home. No one takes that journey lightly. No one leaves behind the only home they have known, their friends, their extended family, if they have any other choice.

Yet, instead of accepting these refugees with compassion, this administration is persecuting and prosecuting those fleeing danger, taking babies from their mothers' and fathers' arms, causing great trauma.

There is absolutely no justification for this policy. It is cruelty for cruelty's sake. This is not who we are as a Nation.

It is why I have joined Ranking Member CUMMINGS to demand an Oversight and Government Reform hearing on this reckless policy, and why I have signed on to a resolution condemning this horrific behavior as the child abuse that it is, and why I am joining the Women's Caucus next week at a shadow hearing, because we have requested a hearing from the Republican majority, and they have not granted it, so we are having our own hearing to explore this issue more.

The administration needs to immediately change course, and every Member of Congress must hold it accountable for doing so.

These children, these families, and this country deserve so much better.

Mr. Speaker, I again thank my good friend, Representative CORREA, for hosting this Special Order, for his leadership, and for allowing me to participate in this Special Order this evening.

□ 1800

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentlewoman from New York for her comments.

I yield to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE), my good friend and distinguished colleague.

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, America has a long and wonderful tradition of welcoming people from all over the world who are fleeing violence and famine and war and repression. It is, in fact, one of the founding values of our country, and the words on the Statue of Liberty remind us of that:

Give me your tired, your poor,  
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,

The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.  
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me.

I lift my lamp beside the golden door.

What we are here tonight to do, Mr. Speaker, is to raise our voices and be

sure the American people understand what is underway in our country.

The Trump administration has put forth a program they call zero tolerance. And just to explain what this means, people who are fleeing gang violence, persecution, incredible deprivation, domestic violence, travel a long distance, come to America for the hope of being safe.

We have laws in this country that say if, in fact, you are legitimately fleeing violence or persecution and you can demonstrate that, you are eligible for something called asylum. It is an international requirement. It is in our law. This is a lawful process.

They come to America, to the golden door. And what is happening now in this country, parents are being ripped from their children, separated, mothers hearing their children in another room crying out their names, pleading for their mothers, and there is nothing they can do because they are being detained.

Is this who we are?

This is not what we expect of the greatest democracy in the world. It is not only against the law, it is not only in violation of international obligations, imagine, the United States is being condemned by the United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees and Human Rights because of this conduct.

It has been described as torture of children, torture being defined as an act by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, is intentionally inflicted on a person for such purposes as punishing him or her for an act he or she or a third person has committed. This is torture on kids, to rip them from their parents.

And we, today, in the Judiciary Committee pleaded with the chairman: Bring this matter before the Judiciary. We have oversight responsibility for this process. We have a right to know what is going on.

But we had a hearing today on a Texas water district issue, a permit issue, but we couldn't find time to bring the officials responsible for this before our committee.

This is a practice which does violence to children, which is tearing families apart, and for which there is no legal justification. And we have pleaded with our colleagues on the other side of the aisle: Raise your voices. The world is watching America in this moment, and we are undermining our standing in the world, the values that we promote around the world, and we are particularly doing tremendous damage to these children and families that are being separated.

We have asylum laws for a reason. Those have been enacted by the Congress of the United States, and they should be respected by these officials in the Department of Homeland Security and ICE and by the Attorney General of the United States.

It is hard to describe the heartache and the pain and the suffering that this

illegal, unconstitutional, despicable policy is causing; and our colleagues, my friends on the other side of the aisle, have not so much as raised a peep. They are responsible in their silence for the continuation of this program.

We will continue to raise our voices to do everything that we can to bring the attention of the American people to this travesty because, only by the American people contacting their Members of Congress, demanding that this policy change, speaking out against this horrific brutality that is occurring in detention facilities all across this country—this does not reflect the values of our country. It does not reflect our shared values of respecting the human dignity of every person, of this special place that children have and the special responsibility that we have for children.

We have a responsibility to do something about it, to stop this, to bring the Attorney General before the Congress of the United States, to hold him accountable for this horrific behavior and, once again, demonstrate to the world that we are a country that lifts people up, that respects human rights, that honors children, and that demonstrates a commitment to family values. This zero tolerance policy does violence to all of that.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for giving me an opportunity to be heard.

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. O'ROURKE), my good friend and distinguished colleague.

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, on Monday of this week, I was in McAllen, Texas, a beautiful community comprised of some incredibly courageous, strong, kindhearted people in the Rio Grande Valley in the State of Texas, connected by the Rio Grande River to Reynosa, Mexico, forming one of these extraordinary binational communities that distinguish our connection with Mexico with the State of Texas for the United States of America.

I was able to visit the Border Patrol station in McAllen, Texas, which is the busiest Border Patrol station in the country. I happened to be there during the busiest shift during that day in that busy station, and I was able to spend some time with the amazing women and men of the Border Patrol, who have one of the toughest jobs that I can imagine: keeping our country safe, protecting our communities and the families within our communities, and meeting those who are at their most desperate, most vulnerable moment in their lives, people who have fled terror and violence, death and deprivation in their countries to come to ours, to seek asylum, to seek safety, to seek refuge.

In that Border Patrol station I had the ability to meet a family, a young mother and her young child, who had fled Honduras and had traveled more

than 2,000 miles to come to this country. And because they presented themselves to Border Patrol agents, didn't try to flee from them, went to those Border Patrol agents seeking asylum in between the ports of entry and didn't do it at the international bridge, didn't do it at the port of entry, that young mother and her child were arrested. They were being held in that cell comprised of cinder blocks, sitting on a hard concrete bench with a number of other mothers and young children, had just been arrested within the last 24 hours and were about to go to the Border Patrol Processing Center. Through tears, that young mother was able to tell me about her journey.

When I asked her why she didn't choose to cross at the port of entry, where she could have lawfully petitioned for asylum, she said: "I was scared." She didn't know where to cross.

And, frankly, those crossing areas in Reynosa on the Mexican side of the U.S.-Mexico border are controlled by the cartels. The cartels determined where she and her 7-year-old daughter were going to cross.

Not lost on me was the fact that her daughter was gripping her mother's hand for dear life, as I imagine she had been for the last 3 weeks when they made that 2,000-mile journey, where, if they were lucky, they made it on foot.

They also made it atop, not inside of, a train, known as La Bestia, or the Beast, and where they were fortunate enough to survive that journey and come to our front door of the United States at the Texas-Mexico border, and where she was arrested and, unbeknownst to her and to that little girl who was clutching her hand, they would, within hours, be separated and might not know when they would be joined again, if ever.

One hundred percent of the young women and men who travel with those young children in between our ports of entry are arrested, are detained, imprisoned, jailed in those Border Patrol stations, where they next go to the next place that I went to in McAllen, which was the Border Patrol processing center, a gigantic warehouse, where I saw the children who had just been separated from their moms and dads behind cyclone fencing, sleeping on polished concrete floors with a mattress 5 or 6 inches thick directly on the ground, Mylar blankets keeping them warm, again, with Border Patrol agents who were as humane and professional as possible, given the circumstances and the conditions.

Men separated in other holding pods, women behind cyclone fences in other holding pods. There was another cyclone-fenced area open for public view where you went to the bathroom and where we had to be able to see your head or your feet. Those are the processes and procedures and the laws under which those people are being held.

After that, I went to the international bridge at Reynosa and, on the

Mexican side, was able to talk to three different people who were seeking asylum. Two of them had made the trip from Guatemala. When they got to Reynosa, they were kidnapped by cartels, held for 12 days, without clothes, without access to the outside world, with the exception of being able to make calls to family members who could cough up the \$7,500 that would purchase their freedom, allow them to leave captivity and make their way to the international bridge, literally 10 feet away from the international line and the United States of America, where, if they could step foot on our soil, they would be able to lawfully petition for asylum.

But standing there were four officers of Customs and Border Protection who would not let them pass, who told them we do not have capacity within our country and, therefore, they could not lawfully petition for asylum, therefore, perversely providing the incentive for them to try to cross in between the ports of entry illegally, where they will be arrested, criminally prosecuted, and sent back to countries from which they are fleeing certain death.

After that, I went to a detention center run by a private prison corporation, where I met a man who had left his home country with his 12-year-old daughter, whom he has not seen for the last 5 days. And in between 4-inch-thick Plexiglass, behind which I could barely hear what he was saying, he told me about the horrific journey that he had endured.

He took off his shirt and showed me the bullet wounds that he had suffered that had caused him to make the desperate decision to leave his family, his home country, his language, whatever he knew in life, and take that 12-year-old girl and try to bring her to safety.

Again, just as with that mother, he was arrested. He now was in criminal proceedings. He would now be moved to Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Enforcement Removal Operations, ERO facility, where he would be sent back to his country of origin; and he had no clue where that 12-year-old girl that he had risked everything for was at that moment.

Thank God for Rochelle Garza, his pro bono attorney, next to whom I was sitting, who was doing everything in her power to provide him the strength, reminding him to keep his faith and saying that she was going to do everything in her effort, in her power to track down that 12-year-old girl.

Mr. Speaker, who are we to be doing this right now?

I know that every single one of us, to a person, if we were standing here in this Chamber in 1939 when this country was sending back the St. Louis, which had set sail on May 13, 1939, from Hamburg, Germany, with more than 900 German Jewish refugees, including children, that all of us, to a person, would like to say, if I were here, I would have made the case to accept the St. Louis and those 900 passengers and

make sure that they could find refuge and asylum in this country. Instead, this country chose not to, and we sent that ship back to Europe, where more than 250 of those 900 passengers would be slaughtered in the Holocaust.

This is our opportunity to do the right thing. We will be judged by our conscience, by our children, and by history. This is our moment of truth.

So I join my friend from California, with every Member in this Chamber, Republican and Democrat, in calling upon ourselves, our country, to do the right thing at the moment that we still have the chance to do the right thing.

Tomorrow, legislation will be introduced to end the practice of family separation. As an original cosponsor of this bill, I am calling on my colleagues to rush the decision, the debate, and to pass this overwhelmingly so that we can send it to the Senate and, ultimately, to the President's desk for his signature and do the right thing while we still have the chance to do that.

□ 1815

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman for his comments, and I think he is absolutely correct. History is going to judge us, and we are going to look back years from now and say: What did we do?

We have to make sure we are not silent in this very special moment in our history. I thank the gentleman for coming.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. SMITH), my good friend.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to speak on this very important issue. I just want to echo the comments of my colleagues about the basic inhumanity the policy the Trump administration is perpetrating on these people who are trying to cross the border in order to seek asylum, in order to flee violence and absolutely unlivable conditions in a variety of countries in Latin America.

To have a policy of separating them from their children is inhumane and goes against every basic value that we, as Americans, hold dear. The terrible thing about it is, if you listen to the Trump administration, that seems to be the idea. Their notion is to make it as painful as possible, to discourage these people from wanting to seek refuge in the United States.

Think about how that policy just flips on its head everything that we were raised to believe about America. One of the things that makes America great is we are made up of people from all over the world, in many cases, those who have fled horrific living conditions, to come here and build a better life for them and their families. That has made us all better. Our country is stronger because we are renewed every generation by a new set of immigrants from a variety of places across the world.

The Trump administration is the first administration in the history of

this country to be openly, 100 percent hostile to all immigrants. They are trying to make the policy as brutal as possible, because they don't understand the benefit of immigration. They seem to think that it is hurting us when it is not.

So they are wrong on that policy and it is a very simple policy to fix. In fact, it is interesting. We have heard the President on a couple of occasions in the last month say: Oh, not my policy. It is because of some law that Congress passed.

It is possible that he is that ignorant. I doubt it. I actually think that he is simply not telling the truth to the American people about a policy that his own Attorney General has stated clearly.

So President Trump, if you are as appalled as you said you were on a couple of occasions by this policy, you are the President. Fix it. Change it. Stop it.

In my district at a Federal penitentiary in SeaTac that is supposed to be for the most dangerous criminals that have committed Federal crimes in the country, there are housed well over 150 women right now, many of whom have been separated from their children when they crossed the border.

There is a simple fix to this process. As previous speakers, including Mr. O'ROURKE, have said, we have an asylum process in this country. There is a standard by which people can seek asylum and it can be granted or not. We should allow these people coming across this border to go through that asylum process.

This notion that we don't have room is patently ridiculous. Even at this point, we have all kinds of jobs going on unfilled in this country. But beyond that, our basic humanity should say: these people are suffering. We have a law that says we should protect them. Follow that law.

And also, in terms housing them, there are more people than I can count, more nonprofit organizations, more religious organizations, volunteer organizations, who have said: We will gladly take in these immigrants while they await their asylum here.

There is a very simple solution to this. We don't have to put them in the horrible barracks that Mr. O'ROURKE described a few minutes ago. There are people who will take them, keep them while they go through the process. It is very simple.

Stop the policy of separating children from their mothers and fathers. It is wrong. It is inhumane. It is grossly unnecessary. They come across the border. We have got a process. Keep them with their families. Take advantage of the resources that are available out there in the private sector to find them a place to stay with their families together, and go through the asylum process.

Now, I understand the asylum process. Not everybody is going to qualify for asylum, and it is possible that some of these people are going to have to be

sent back to their home country. But at a minimum, we can make sure that when they stay here, they stay together as a family, and if they are allowed to stay, they stay together as a family. If they don't get granted asylum, then they go back as a family.

To separate families—and I want to emphasize this last point before I finish—when you listen to the Attorney General, when you listen to the administration, they are doing this because it is cruel, because they are so opposed to immigration that they want to try to discourage people. And that is just a sad commentary on what the United States has become under this President. We should do the humane thing.

Keep families together. Give them their day in court, their day to prove that they qualify for asylum, and then you can make the decision from there. But don't rip children out of the hands of families. It is something that the United States of America should never do.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from California, Mr. CORREA, for holding this hour, and I thank him for giving me the opportunity to say a few words.

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman, Mr. ADAM SMITH, very much for coming over and sharing his thoughts. It is very important. Again, we cannot forget.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE), my good friend and distinguished colleague from the good State of Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. CORREA from the great State of California for taking the time to really allow those of us who are in pain to express that pain. I know that my colleagues, each one of them—as we say sometimes in our religious institutions—have come in their own way.

I come in a series of ways. One, as a years-long member of the Immigration and Border Security Subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee. Being present when we designed a policy for unaccompanied children to be protected and to get to their rightful guardian and not go into the hands of sex traffickers. That was, in fact, a stated policy of the United States for unaccompanied children.

And in many ways it happens. In the last 4 or 5 years I was at the border when the surge of unaccompanied children came because of the violence, particularly in Central America. These children came. We knew they were coming, and we had standup facilities run by nuns and other religious organizations to take unaccompanied children until a legitimate legal guardian in the United States could be documented, or some other legitimate family documented.

When I say, documented, documented that they were able to take the child and that they were legal to the extent that they were not human traffickers.

That is what policies we had. There is no policy. There is no regulation.

There is no statute. There is no law. There is no law that is allowing the personnel at the border, customs—particularly Border Patrol—to snatch, rip, and tear children away from their family. And if the distinguished gentleman from California would allow me, I want this to be a call to action because there is a legal process or legislative process.

As my previous colleagues have said, many of us are introducing legislation. This past weekend I stood with Guatemalan citizens, people of Guatemalan descent, and we know for fact that 1 million people have been displaced in Guatemala because of the volcano. And I just have to say, they will be fleeing, many of them.

We also know that people have come because they have suffered unbelievable, unspeakable gang violence: the decapitating of heads, the murder of children. One mother saw two sons murdered and she took the last child, boy child, to try to find refuge.

There are stories like this all over. And so what is happening at the border is a nonpolicy that is done only for the vileness of punishment. We will punish these people and they will not come anymore.

As we are on the brink of Father's Day. For those who read the Scriptures, they know the story of Moses. Sometimes a parent is so desperate that they will either escape with that child or they will send that child on. And America has always been a place that has found a regular order to deal with this crisis. That is not what is happening, and the American people need to understand.

The courts are overloaded. There are not enough immigration judges. There are not enough lawyers. They are taking into court 50 and 70 people at a time. There are some people who are not speaking Spanish. They are speaking an indigenous language, and they do not understand at all, except they have come with the right that they have—and the legal term is “credible fear”—they have come to seek asylum.

And we have for long precedent allowed those who have experienced domestic violence—the stories are horrific—or those who have been the victim of gangs to come, and that is not happening now.

So I just want to hold up these pictures that show the anguish of parents who could be like any one of us. The anguish of the father, Mr. Rodas, whose 5-year-old was snatched from him; the anguish of parents who desire to do nothing but to help their child or themselves and these children are being snatched away. It is not any immigration policy, but a policy to scare, to punish, to frighten, to undermine, and to do a vileness.

Not because America is not good. We are. But it is important that we act upon that goodness and that we don't have these series of pictures where when this mother turns her back, the child is snatched away.

So the call to action is to the vastness of our religious community, the

vast television ministry, TBN, The Impact Network, The Word Network, Hillsong Church, whatever ones you want to call. In this day of worship, all of these leaders should stand and speak out in the loudest voice against the unspeakable, nonkindness, ungodly act of snatching children away from parents.

I will be going down to visit and to see a number of centers, and all I ask is my Government to be what it is: a loving and nurturing place of values and democracy, and a recognition that we are a Nation of immigrants and a Nation of laws.

These people have come to seek asylum. That is a legal process. Some may win it and some may not. But I would only say to you that who are we, if we cannot, as a mass of Americans, cry out against this administration. No matter how much of a cult we think this administration has been called, there have to be some good people that will recognize that our values, our flag rises above any person. And it is important for us to save the lives of these children.

Mr. CORREA, let me thank the gentleman so very much for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, Congressman CORREA is a valued member of this body and one of the outstanding member of the Homeland Security Committee, where he Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Management Efficiency.

We are here today to call upon the President and the Congress of the United States to act without delay regarding the “zero-tolerance” policy that separates families apprehended on the southern border by U.S. Border Patrol.

As the member of the House Committees on Homeland Security and former Ranking Member of the Homeland Security Subcommittee on Maritime and Border Security, I cannot think of a situation more devastating than having the government forcibly separate a parent from her child to a place unknown, for a fate uncertain, absent any form of communication.

Every day, hundreds of persons, ranging from infants and toddlers to adolescents and adults, flee violence, oppression, and economic desperation from Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador, seeking safe harbor in the United States.

They are not criminals or terrorists, they are refugees seeking asylum.

The American government must harness all available resources to aid those enduring unimaginable suffering, which is why I have called upon the President to extend Temporary Protected Status for those affected by this volcano, including introducing broader legislation that makes Guatemala eligible for TPS.

While they hope to receive asylum, none of us expected that they would be treated as criminals or that their children would be forcibly separated from them.

I cannot think of a situation more devastating than having the government forcibly separate a parent from their child to a place unknown, for a fate uncertain, absent any form of communication.

But shamefully that is exactly what is happening under this administration.

Reports indicate that as many as 700 children have been taken from adults claiming to be their parents since October 2017, including more than 100 children under the age of 4.

This startling fact comes after Acting Assistant Secretary Steven Wagner of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) testified before the Senate in April 2018 that during a review of more than 7,600 unaccompanied immigrant children who had recently arrived and been placed with a sponsor, officials at the agency were unable to determine the precise whereabouts of 1,475 children.

This is unconscionable and unacceptable.

This administration’s practice of separating children from their parents inexplicably turns accompanied children into unaccompanied children, with all of the attendant risks and dangers, including human trafficking.

In 2014, the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations reported that “over a period of 4 months, HHS allegedly placed a number of UACs in the hands of a ring of human traffickers who forced them to work on egg farms in and around Marion, Ohio.

The minor victims were forced to work six or seven days a week, twelve hours per day.

The traffickers repeatedly threatened the victims and their families with physical harm, and even death, if they did not work or surrender their entire paychecks.”

What is even more reprehensible is to this day, the Trump administration maintains that the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) is not legally responsible for children after they are released from ORR care. This line of thinking allows such gross negligence to take place in the first place. As the Founder and Chair of the Congressional Children’s Caucus and as a parent and grandparent, this is unacceptable.

Studies have documented that when young children are traumatically removed from their parents, their physical and mental health and well-being suffers.

The effects of these traumatic experiences—especially in children who have already faced serious adversity—are unlikely to be short-lived, and can likely last a lifetime.

This is exacerbated when the child in custody speaks a language that is not English or Spanish.

Although the government has a legal obligation to provide reasonable language services to unaccompanied minors, many children arriving to the U.S. speak indigenous languages and have little or no translation assistance provided by the U.S. government.

The Trump administration’s “zero-tolerance” policy does not make our nation safer or more secure, nor is it a solution to the problem of illegal immigration and refugees seeking asylum. It is, however, monstrously cruel, inhumane, and shameful and makes a mockery of America’s reputation as the most welcoming and generous nation on earth.

United Nations Office spokesperson Ravina Shamdasani recently condemned the Trump administration’s treatment of unaccompanied minors coming to the United States saying that “the use of immigration detention and family separation as a deterrent runs counter to human rights standards and principles”.

The last time this nation had policies that promoted the forcible separation of children from newly arrived persons was slavery: a dark chapter in this nation’s history that we should not revisit.

Today, the parents of these thousands of children will not be deterred from finding ways to reunite with their children, even reentering the United States under the threat of imprisonment.

It would be unconscionable to prosecute parents under these circumstances. There must be strong and aggressive congressional oversight of this administration’s immigration enforcement.

The Trump administration’s policy should cease and desist immediately.

National Policy regarding immigration legislation should not create greater fear for families already traumatized by intolerable conditions in their home countries.

U.S. immigration policy should not deter refugees from seeking asylum within our borders.

We should welcome mothers carrying their babies to a safe haven and assure the safety of their children.

I will soon be introducing legislation prohibiting the separation of children from their families absent a health or safety risk. The legislation will also provide that these children the right to be represented by counsel and that translation services be available at all legal proceedings at all stages.

As we have seen with the recent volcanic activity and earthquakes in Guatemala, the United States should be seeking ways to help its neighbors in the Southern Hemisphere.

The American government must harness all available resources to aid those enduring unimaginable suffering, which is why I have called upon the President to extend Temporary Protected Status for those affected by this volcano.

In the coming days, I will also be introducing broader legislation that makes Guatemala eligible for TPS, so that those who fled this horror, and other mainstays of the world—like a murder rate which is among the highest in the country, and rampant gang violence—may have hope to realize their American dream.”

The Trump administration is utterly failing in its basic duty to treat all persons with dignity and compassion.

Rather, it is making a mockery of our national values and reputation as a champion of human rights.

This crisis is not just an immigration matter, nor is it just a foreign policy matter.

It is a humanitarian crisis, executed by an administration that purports to be the champion of ‘family values’ but whose actions do not actually value families.

We are a great country with a long and noble tradition of providing sanctuary to the persecuted and oppressed. And it is in that spirit that we should act. We can do it; after all, we are Americans.

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague Congresswoman JACKSON LEE, for her comments.

I agree with her. This is a call to action. At this moment in history, we cannot be silent. At this moment in history, we cannot look away. And in this moment of history, we cannot ignore what we know is clearly going on around us. I thank the gentlewoman for her comments.

Mr. Speaker, I now yield to Mr. JOAQUIN CASTRO, my good friend and distinguished colleague from Texas.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman CORREA for yielding.

I think as Americans learned, mostly over the last few weeks, that young children were being separated from their mothers and fathers at the U.S.-Mexico border, and now have heard that the Trump administration is proposing to put these young children who have been separated from their parents in tent camps on military bases in Texas and in other places, it makes people wonder whether the Nation has lost its moral compass under this administration.

Just because somebody crosses a border or presents themselves at a border, does not make them nonhuman.

□ 1830

The United States is a nation, if anything, that stands for and has stood for freedom, for human rights, and for democracy.

How can we carry that mantle when we refuse to treat people like human beings, especially young children?

This has become standard government policy under the Trump administration. It is leaving lasting trauma—emotional, mental, and physical trauma—to these young kids.

We should be able to enforce our immigration laws and still respect people's humanity. So I have been encouraged to see so many Americans speak up against this abhorrent policy. So many Americans from every corner of this Nation, every city and every part, have spoken up against this policy.

Because this Nation has stood as a moral beacon around the world, it was quite remarkable recently when the United Nations, which the United States hosts in New York City and for which the United States is the largest funder, condemned our Nation for separating kids from their families and their parents at the U.S.-Mexico border. I ask us to think about that and its significance.

If we can't stop these kinds of things from happening in the United States, then I don't know that we can stop them from happening anywhere in the world. This is not only a call to conscience, it is a call to respect our Constitution, and it is a call that is not Republican or Democrat or liberal or conservative but American. It is a call for respect of human dignity.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman CORREA for organizing this discussion today and for all of his work on this issue.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague, Mr. CASTRO from the good State of Texas, for his comments.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for the opportunity to address this most important issue of asylum and this most important issue of children seeking asylum in this great country of ours.

We have to remember who this country is. We have to remember who we

are as a people. We are all immigrants in this country. Except if you are native-born, Native American, you are not. But 99.9 percent of us were all immigrants. We all came to this country, our forefathers came to this country seeking a better life, seeking better opportunities, and seeking to run away from tyranny that was provided to them by other countries.

Today, I hope that the people who are watching and the people who are listening understand what is at stake today. We cannot look away. We cannot ignore what is going on.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague and fellow member on the House Committee on Homeland Security, Congressman LOU CORREA, for leading tonight's special order regarding the need to protect immigrant children and families from the cruel and punitive policies adopted by the Trump Administration.

Over the past several months, the Trump Administration has engaged in the barbaric activity of separating migrant children from their parents to instill fear and deter families from seeking legal protection in the United States. These families are fleeing dangerous and violent situations in their home countries—seeking safety in the United States—only to have their children taken away from them. In many situations, the parents are not told where their children are or when they will be reunited.

We have laws in place so that people fleeing dangerous situations can request protection and humanitarian relief. We should open our arms to these families, not tear them apart and put them in jail.

Earlier this year, I was proud to lead all 12 of Democrats on the Committee on Homeland Security, as well as 63 of our Democratic colleagues, in sending a letter to Secretary Nielsen strongly opposing the practice of separating migrant parents from their children at the border. I continue to condemn this practice by the Trump Administration. A secure border and effective immigration system is important. The use of these tactics to deter migration is not only ineffective, but also un-American. I urge my colleagues to join me in speaking out against this unjust and inhumane policy.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, during a 2-week period in May, 658 immigrant children were separated from their families by Customs and Border Patrol agents at our southern border. The number of immigrant children held in custody by the United States government is now 10,773, an increase of 21% since the end of April. Sadly, this practice of family separation continues to be applied by the Trump administration today. It must be stopped immediately.

The high majority of families crossing our southern border come from Central America, where rampant violence threatens the lives of women and children in particular. These families come to the United States in hopes of finding safety. Instead, this inhumane policy enforced by the Trump administration ensures that parents and children will face additional psychological and emotional trauma.

Separation from parents is particularly damaging for young children, who have already endured a long and dangerous journey from

their points of origin. Aside from the obvious emotional toll of parental separation, a report released by the American Civil Liberties Union last month details pervasive abuse of unaccompanied children by the Customs and Border Protection agency. Instances of this abuse include CBP officials repeatedly punching a child's head, verbally abusing detained children, and denying a pregnant minor medical care, which resulted in a stillbirth.

Congress must come together to end the Trump administration's practice and to ensure that these migrants are treated humanely. Attorney General Jeff Sessions' recent announcement that this administration will not grant asylum to victims of domestic and gang violence will only exacerbate the problems these families face, and at the very least, we must ensure that they are able to stay together as they face their uncertain futures.

Mr. Speaker, no matter where they come from, parents and children belong together. Congress must use its legislative authority to prevent the Trump administration from ripping them apart.

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express grave concern about the acceleration of the separation of families at the U.S.-Mexico border due to the Trump Administration's "zero tolerance" policy toward border crossers. According to Reuters, more than 1,800 families have been separated from their children in the periods between October 2016 and February 2018.

Since then, the number has dramatically increased. Recent testimony from CBP officials shows that in the two weeks following Attorney General Jeff Sessions' May 7th announcement of the policy, 638 adults with 658 children were placed in the prosecution process, effectively separating them from their children for an indefinite time period. In McAllen, Texas alone, federal defenders counted 421 immigrant parents coming through the court room in the period between May 21st and June 5th. This number is alarming and disgraceful.

While their parents are prosecuted, children are placed in Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) contract facilities like Southwest Key in Brownsville, Texas, an old Wal-Mart now being used to house children detainees. Several reports indicate that children in CBP custody are held in kennel-like cages and are being verbally, emotionally, physically, and sexually mistreated. We do not know the exact number of children being held, what they are doing with them inside, or how long these children remain "in custody" before they are able to see their parents. What we do know is that allowing children to be ripped from their families is a terrible policy that the United Nations has already explicitly condemned.

The Trump Administration, through their own volition, decided that it is in the national interest of the United States to cause such pain and suffering. Multiple studies have shown that separating children from their families is a traumatizing experience with lifelong consequences. To be clear Mr. Speaker, there is no law that requires families to be torn apart. There is no law that requires that a child go through such a traumatizing experience. What these children are going through is reprehensible, unacceptable, and in blatant disregard to the values of these United States.

Our country was founded on the notion that all peoples are worthy of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Immigrants come to this

country searching and hoping to fulfill the American Dream. Many immigrants risk their lives fleeing their countries plagued with violence. It is repugnant that the Trump Administration continues to torment such vulnerable individuals, particularly toddlers, in such an atrocious manner.

As the world's leading democracy, we should strive to protect human rights, regardless of one's citizenship or place of origin. Our nation's child welfare laws have long recognized family unity as an essential human right. As such, I joined with Homeland Security Committee Ranking Member BENNIE THOMPSON to demand information Customs and Border Protection and the Department of Health and Human Services about the Administration's de facto policy of separating families at the border. We need answers and every single day that passes, more families face the risk of being separated from their loved one.

I urge my colleagues to join me in seeking answers from this Administration. We cannot let these voices go unheard. These children are suffering and are in desperate need of our support.

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 2333. An act to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to increase the amount of leverage made available to small business investment companies.

H.R. 4743. An act to amend the Small Business Act to strengthen the Office of Credit Risk Management within the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

#### SENATE ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The Speaker announced his signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 1869.—An act to reauthorize and rename the position of Whistleblower Ombudsman to be the Whistleblower Protection Coordinator.

S. 2246.—An act to designate the health care center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Tallahassee, Florida, as the Sergeant Ernest I. "Boots" Thomas VA Clinic, and for other purposes.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 34 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, June 14, 2018, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5136. A letter from the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting

the Commission's Major final rule — Optional Internet Availability of Investment Company Shareholder Reports (Release Nos.: 33-10506; 34-83380; IC-33115; File No.: S7-08-15) (RIN: 3235-AL42) received June 11, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5137. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Listing of Color Additives Subject to Certification; D&C Black No. 4 [Docket No.: FDA-2017-C-0935] received June 11, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5138. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Food Additives Permitted in Feed and Drinking Water of Animals; Formic Acid as a Feed Acidifying Agent in Complete Poultry Feeds [Docket No.: FDA-2017-F-2130] received June 11, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5139. A letter from the Senior Advisor to the Secretary, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Technical and Clarifying Edits; Criminal Violations NPS Units Nationwide [NPS-WASO-24719; PPWOVPADUO/PPMPLE1Y.Y00000] (RIN: 1024-AE43) received June 5, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5140. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zones; Coast Guard Sector Ohio Valley Annual and Recurring Safety Zones Update [Docket No.: USCG-2018-0065] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received May 16, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5141. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Barge PFE-LB444, San Joaquin River, Blackslough Landing, CA [Docket No.: USCG-2018-0387] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received May 16, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5142. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Pacific Ocean, Kilauea Lava Flow Ocean Entry on Southeast Side of Island of Hawaii, HI [Docket No.: USCG-2017-0234] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received May 16, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5143. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Cocos Lagoon, Merizo, GU [Docket No.: USCG-2018-0290] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received May 16, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5144. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's notice of proposed rulemaking — Special Local Regulation; Black Warrior River, Tusca-

loosa, AL [Docket No.: USCG-2018-0014] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received May 16, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5145. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Ohio River mile marker 27.8 to mile marker 28.2, Vanport, PA [Docket No.: USCG-2018-0422] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received May 16, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5146. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Ohio River, Cincinnati, OH [Docket No.: USCG-2018-0291] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received May 16, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5147. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Special Local Regulation; Clinch River, Oak Ridge, TN [Docket No.: USCG-2018-0096] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received May 16, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5148. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Tennessee River, Huntsville, AL [Docket No.: USCG-2018-0066] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received May 16, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5149. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Special Local Regulation; Clinch River, Oak Ridge, TN [Docket No.: USCG-2018-0143] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received May 16, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5150. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Pensacola Bay, Pensacola, FL [Docket No.: USCG-2018-0086] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received May 16, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5151. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Pensacola Bay, Pensacola, FL [Docket No.: USCG-2017-0998] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received May 16, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5152. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Special Local Regulation; Red River, Alexandria, LA [Docket No.: USCG-2018-0312] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received May 16, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5153. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's